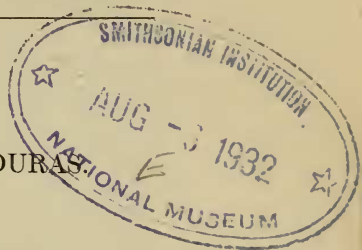


PROCEEDINGS  
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TWO NEW MAMMALS FROM HONDURAS

BY E. A. GOLDMAN.



Mr. C. F. Underwood, whose name has been linked for many years with natural history, especially the ornithology of Costa Rica, is now engaged in making collections in the interior of Honduras. Among mammals recently obtained by him are specimens of a *Baiomys*, and of a cottontail rabbit of the *Sylvilagus floridanus* group. Neither of these seems previously to have been recorded from Honduras, although the rabbit is known from Nicaragua. Both are southern representatives of groups reaching the United States.

They appear to warrant subspecific recognition, and are described as follows:

*Baiomys musculus grisescens*, subsp. nov.

HONDURAS BAIOMYS.

*Type*.—From Comayabuela, just south of Tegucigalpa, Honduras (altitude 3,100 feet). No. 257083, ♀ adult, U. S. National Museum, collected by C. F. Underwood, March 6, 1932. Original No. 838.

*Distribution*.—Known only from south-central Honduras.

*General characters*.—A slightly differentiated, grayish brown form, with a broad skull. Closely allied to *Baiomys musculus nigrescens* of Chiapas, but upper parts paler, owing to a grayish suffusion, and under parts more pinkish buff (pure white pectoral areas present in some specimens); skull broader. Not very unlike *B. m. musculus* of Colima, but upper parts darker in general tone, with a more distinct grayish suffusion; skull slightly different.

*Color*.—*Type*: Upper parts finely mixed vinaceous buff and dusky, with a grayish plumbeous suffusion, producing a grayish brown general tone, the dusky element due to fine black tips of hairs restricted mainly to top of head and back; cheeks, shoulders, and flanks lighter, more pinkish buffy; under parts overlaid with pinkish buff, the plumbeous basal color showing through; outer surfaces of forearms and thighs grayish plumbeous; feet dull whitish; ears dusky; tail nearly unicolor, dark brownish above, slightly

paler below. In several topotypes the pectoral region is marked by white areas, varying from a narrow median line to broad patches extending more than half way across under parts.

*Skull.*—Very similar to that of *B. m. nigrescens*, but braincase and interorbital region broader; zygomata more strongly bowed outward, near middle, the sides, therefore, less nearly parallel. Differing from that of *B. m. musculus* mainly in more widely spreading zygomata.

*Measurements.*—*Type*: Total length, 101 mm.; tail vertebrae, 44; hind foot, 15. Average of four adult topotypes: 104 (94–118); 45 (42–50); 14.5 (14–15). *Skull* (type): Occipitonasal length, 20; condylobasal length, 18; zygomatic breadth, 11; interorbital constriction, 4; length of nasals, 7.2; maxillary tooththrow, 3.2.

*Remarks.*—The discovery of a *Baiomys* in Honduras materially extends the known range of the genus southward. In localities where mice of this group occur they are usually abundant and readily trapped. No specimens appear to have been taken by collectors in Nicaragua, and this suggests that the material upon which the present form is based may be from near the southern limit of the genus.

*Specimens examined.*—Eight, all from Honduras, as follows: Comayabuela (type locality), 7; Monte Redondo, 1.

### *Sylvilagus floridanus hondurensis*, subsp. nov.

#### HONDURAS COTTONTAIL.

*Type.*—From Monte Redondo, about 30 miles northwest of Tegucigalpa, Honduras (altitude about 5,100 feet). No. 257062, ♂ adult, U. S. National Museum, collected by C. F. Underwood, December 3, 1931. Original No. 628.

*Distribution.*—South-central Honduras to northern Nicaragua.

*General characters.*—Size medium; ears short; pelage short; dorsum dark and contrasting with grayish sides of head and flanks; top of head and upper surface of tail near tip blackish. Similar to *Sylvilagus floridanus chiapensis* of Chiapas, but ears shorter; pelage shorter; sides of head and body grayer; pectoral and abdominal areas purer white (more or less suffused with buff in *chiapensis*); skull narrower. About like *S. f. aztecus* of the western side of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec in general size, but ears shorter and color distinctly darker, the upper parts suffused with a more tawny tone, and top of head and back more heavily overlaid with black; tail blacker above near tip. Smaller, with relatively shorter ears, than *S. f. yucatanicus* of Yucatan; color above darker, with a richer, more tawny suffusion, and top of head, back, and tail blacker; skull less massive.

*Color.*—Winter pelage: Top of head and back light tawny, heavily overlaid with black; nape clear cinnamon rufous; sides of body buffy grayish, becoming clearer gray on sides of head, base of ears, and on sides of rump; light tawny of back extending downward across flanks in narrow areas in front of thighs (a marking shared with many other rabbits); throat, inner surfaces of limbs, pectoral region, median abdominal and inguinal areas white; sides of abdomen and under surface of neck cinnamon buffy;

ears gray, mixed with black externally, becoming nearly pure black along antero-external margins near tips, thinly clothed internally with grayish hairs; outer surfaces of forearms tawny, paling gradually to pinkish buff on fore feet; outer surfaces of thighs tawny, shading to dull white on terminal half of metatarsus and toes; tail above buff, mixed with black, becoming nearly pure black toward tip, below pure white.

*Skull*.—Rather narrow and of slender proportions. Very similar in general to that of *S. f. aztecus*, but jugal slightly less extended vertically, and audital bullae slightly larger than usual in that form. Similar to those of *S. f. chiapensis* and *S. f. yucatanicus*, but narrower, less massive; jugal more slender; audital bullae about as in *chiapensis*, smaller than in *yucatanicus*.

*Measurements*.—*Type*: Total length, 428 mm.; tail vertebrae, 41; hind foot, 87; ear from notch (dry skin), 54.3. Two adult topotypes: 434, 415; 42, 37; 58, 54. *Skull* (type): Occipitonasal length, 74.5; condylobasal length, 65.8; zygomatic breadth (anteriorly), 35; interorbital breadth, 19.4; length of nasals, 34.3; maxillary toothrow (alveoli), 13.5.

*Remarks*.—When Nelson revised the rabbits of North America (North Amer. Fauna, No. 29, Aug. 31, 1909) no cottontails from Honduras were available for study. Several specimens from neighboring territory in northern Nicaragua were, however, referred to *S. f. chiapensis* (op. cit., p. 190) with comment as follows: "In color they are perfectly typical *chiapensis*, but are smaller, with shorter ears and hind feet. The skull is smaller than typical *chiapensis*, with proportionately wider interorbital breadth and larger bullae. However, these differences do not appear to be sufficiently marked to be worth more than passing notice \* \* \*." These specimens had already been assigned by J. A. Allen (Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., vol. 24, p. 649, Oct. 13, 1908) to the same form, but he remarked that "the dorsal surface is apparently more heavily washed with black than in *chiapensis*." Some differences as compared with more northern specimens had, therefore, been noted by two previous authors. The additional material from Honduras warrants the recognition of a more southern form of *Sylvilagus floridanus*, with characters as here set forth.

*Specimens examined*.—Total number, 5, as follows: Honduras: Monte Redondo (type locality), 4; Nicaragua: Jinotega, 1.